

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /077 W

----- 090711

R 031347Z AQR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8660

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1937

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MPOL, TS

SUBJECT: VISIT TO TUNIS OF USS GATO, SSN 615

1. USS GATO, SSN 615, VISITED TUNIS MARCH 27 - 31.  
DESPITE NUMBER OF LOGISTICS PROBLEMS, EMBASSY CONSIDERS  
VISIT TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. NEITHER BEFORE NOR  
DURING VISIT DID GOT EXPRESS ANY RESERVATIONS, ALTHOUGH  
SUBMARINE, WHICH ANCHORED IN BAY IN TUNIS OPPOSITE  
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, WAS ASKED TO MOVE BY CHIEF OF  
PALACE SECURITY GUARD AFTERNOON OF MARCH 28, AND  
DID SO. DATT WAS TOLD BY TUNISIAN CHIEF OF NAVAL  
OPERATIONS (CNO) THAT REQUEST HAD TO DO WITH PRESENCE  
SHEIKH OF CHARJAH IN PALACE AS PRESIDENTIAL GUEST.  
DCM WAS TOLD BY CNO SIMPLY THAT PALACE WANTED SUBMARINE  
MOVED FARTHER OUT IN BAY. CNO STATED FLATLY, AT  
SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THAT NO OTHER PROBLEM WAS INVOLVED.

2. WE JUDGE STATEMENT TO DATT PROBABLY CLOSER TO  
TRUTH (ALTHOUGH WE HAE NO IDEA WHY SIGHT OF AMERICAN  
SUBMARINE WOULD BE PROBLEM FOR SHEIKH) SINCE HEAVY  
SWELLS FORCED SUBMARINE TO MOVE AGAIN AND IT COMPLETED  
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ITS VISIT ANCHORED APPROXIMATELY WHERE IT BEGAN WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT FROM ANY TUNISIAN AUTHORITY. EACH ANCHORAGE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL, WAS MADE WITH APPROVAL OF GOT AUTHORITIES.

3. LOGISTICS PROBLEMS HAD TO DO WITH CHOP AND SWELLS IN BAY OF TUNIS WHICH WERE OFTEN SUFFICIENTLY HEAVY TO PRECLUDE CREW FROM SHORE LEAVE. TUNISIAN NAVY FURNISHED PATROL CRAFT FOR USE AS FERRY, BUT TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL FROM SUBMARINE TO PATROL CRAFT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN POLICE LAUNCH WHICH WAS OFTEN TOO SMALL TO PERMIT PERSONNEL TO BOARD IT IN WEATHER CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED. NAVAL ADDRESSEES MAY WISH KEEP THIS IN MIND FOR FUTURE VISITS SINCE WEATHER CONDITIONS ON BAY WERE NOT ABNORMAL.

4. WORTH NOTING THAT STANDARD PRESS RELEASE PROVIDED TO LOCAL PRESS WAS USED BY ONE ARABIC DAILY ONLY, AND INCLUDED INFORMATION THAT VESSEL IS NUCLEAR POWERED. PRIOR VISIT OF USS TINOSA TO BIZERTE RECEIVED NO RPT NO LOCAL PUBLICITY, SO FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE. THUS TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS BE GRADUALLY BITING THE BULLET OF LETTING PUBLIC KNOW NPW'S ARE VISITING TUNISIAN PORTS. SEELYE

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL FORCES, PORT VISITS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MPOL, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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